

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A vacuum refining unit wherein, with a vacuum pump connected via a suction line, a vacuum is created above a glass melt to be refined. A valve for supplying secondary air from the atmosphere, for maintaining the pressure conditions in the vacuum unit constant, branches off the suction line. Refining is improved because the vacuum circuit has a controllable leak which provides an inflow of secondary air as a function of different measuring values and thus provides constant refining conditions.